

On page 1, at line 37, please delete "without the recovery tape."

On page 1, line 39, to page 2, line 1, please delete "can be obtained" and after "20 mbars" insert -- is --.

On page 3, at line 9, please insert the heading -- Brief Description of the Drawings --.

On page 3, at lines 16-17, please delete "II-II according to Fig. 1" and insert -- ^{having mutually open grooves} along sectional line II-II shown in Fig. 1, showing ~~one embodiment~~ of the tampon of the current invention ---.

On page 3, at line 19, please delete "Fig. 8" and insert -- Fig. 10 --.

On page 3, at lines 20-21, please delete "in the enlarged representation" and insert -- ^{having closed grooves} according to another embodiment of the invention, ---.

On page 3a, at line 13, please insert the heading -- Description of the Preferred Embodiment --.

On page 4, at line 12, please delete "8" and insert -- 9 --.

On page 5, at lines 8-9, please delete "without the recovery tape" and insert -- of the absorbent portion --.

On page 7, at line 26, after "according to" please insert -- another embodiment of --.

On page 8, at line 5, after "press segments 22," please insert -- and the second group of press dies forming sliding plates 24 ---.

On page 8, at line 32, after "Figs. 6 and 7," please insert -- ,Figs. 8 and 9 show --.

On page 8, at lines 34-35, please delete "related radially to the axis of the press and the winding blank, respectively," and insert -- in the radial direction. ---.

On page 8, at line 36, please delete "interphase" and insert -- intermediate phase -- and delete "all" and insert -- the ---.

On page 8a, at line 1, please delete ",which position" and insert --. The position of the dies shown in Fig. 9 --.

E4 On page 9, at line 5, after "diameter" please insert -- of 20 mm --.

E5 On page 9, at lines 9-10, please delete "cross-section," also delete "corresponding" and insert -- has a diameter of 13 mm and its cross-section corresponds ---.

In the Claims:

Please amend the claims as follows:

E6 1. (Twice Amended) A tampon for feminine hygiene, comprising an absorbent portion formed from an approximately cylindrical blank which is shaped by winding up [a portion of] a length of tape-shaped nonwoven material, (wherein a circumferential surface of the blank is pressed radially [relative to a longitudinal mid-axis of the blank] inward at a first pressure over an even number of [at least 6 portions] mutually adjacent portions in the circumferential surface of the blank, the even number being at least six, the resulting tampon having [narrow strip-shaped portions of the circumferential surface arranged at equal angular distances from one another that have been pressed to produce a preform which comprises] an approximately circular compressed fibre core [of high compression and buckling strength and] from which longitudinal ribs [of softer fibre structure and with a coarser capillary structure which] extend radially outwardly [from], each of the ribs having a distal end and a coarser capillary structure than the fibre core [and which are], each of the ribs being separated from one another by [outwardly open] longitudinal grooves [whereby only].